

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Advisory Action mailed March 6, 2008 and the final Office Action mailed November 26, 2007. By this amendment, claims 4, 7, 9, and 17 are canceled, and new claims 18-20 are added. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 4 and 7. Claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 15, and 16 are amended to correct their claim dependencies. Claim 8 is amended to more clearly set forth applicant's contribution to the art. Claim 11 is amended to recite a Markush group. Claims 12 and 14 are amended so as to recite the sub-ranges in separate claims 19 and 20, respectively. Claims 9 and 17 are canceled, thereby reducing the issues. Thus, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10-16, and 18-20 remain in the application.

In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the drawings fail to show grooves present at locations where the incident light on the plate has a higher intensity are wider than grooves present at locations where incident light on the plate has a lower intensity. The Examiner further states that Applicant never points out any incident edge or any lighting source.

New Figure 4 illustrates a light box and light transmitting plate as set out elsewhere in the specification, for example, in the second paragraph on page 1, page 5, lines 5-12 and Figures 2 and 3. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the drawings objection and approval of the enclosed proposed new drawing.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 – 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,636,283 to Egawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,578,977 to Sasagawa et al. – hereafter Sasagawa.

With regard to Claims 1-9 and 16-17, in making the rejection, the Examiner contends that Egawa discloses the claimed invention except for the teaching of the reflective grooves having a reflective powder and the grooves having a lower density pattern and a higher density pattern in certain locations, thereby reflecting more than 80% of the total incident light impinging on the entire light-transmitting plate. The Examiner cites Sasagawa for remedying this deficiency in Egawa. Specifically, the Examiner cites Sasagawa for teaching that grooves include reflective (diffusive) film or powder. The Examiner contends that powder is synonymous with film. The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to modify the grooves of Egawa to include the reflective film or powder of Sasagawa in order to efficiently reflect light.

Regarding claims 10-15, The Examiner contends that as applied in claims 1-9 and 16-17, it would have been an obvious engineering design choice at the time of the invention to make the grooves a certain width of the reflective powder/film out of a certain material.

Claim 1 has been amended to better define Applicant's invention and to further distinguish over the cited art. Claim 1 now recites limitations and/or features which are not disclosed by Sasagawa and Egawa, alone and in any reasonable combination.

1. A lighting device comprising at least one light source arranged in a housing for emitting a lighting beam through a light-transmitting plate of the housing,

wherein said plate is provided with means which reflect incident light on the plate such that light impinging at certain locations of said light-transmitting plate having a relatively higher light intensity than light impinging certain other locations of said light-transmitting plate is reflected more strongly at said certain locations,

wherein said means comprise at least one light-transmitting plate, having grooves formed therein, said grooves filled with a diffuse reflective powder constituting a patterned reflective material, said grooves having a relatively higher pattern density at said certain locations and a relatively lower pattern density at said certain other locations, thereby reflecting more than 80% of the total incident light impinging on the entire light-transmitting plate, and

a cover plate abutting said light-transmitting plate to cover said grooves, thereby retaining the diffuse reflective powder in said grooves.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the elements of claim 4 and claim 7, such that the light-transmitting plate has grooves formed therein, which grooves are filled with a diffuse reflective powder, and a cover plate covers the grooves so as to retain the powder within the grooves.

It is respectfully submitted that Sasagawa and Egawa, alone and in combination, do not teach the lighting device of claim 1, as amended. Unlike a film, a powder will not independently adhere to the grooves. The claimed cover plate acts to retain the powder within the grooves. The use of the claimed powder, as opposed to a film, provides distinct advantages, which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. As taught by applicants, a powder can provide distinct advantages, such as physical resistance to high temperatures and further lacks the disadvantages of films, such as difficulty controlling film thickness during deposition.

Accordingly, it is believed that Applicant's Claim 1, as amended, recites patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claim 1 and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10-16, 19, and 20 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1 and, therefore, are believed to be allowable for at least the same

reasons given for Claim 1 above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

New Claim

The subject matter of new claim 18 is not disclosed or suggested in any of the cited references. None of the cited references disclose wherein said means comprise at least one light-transmitting plate, having grooves formed therein, said grooves being configured as a matrix, said grooves filled with a diffuse reflective powder constituting a patterned reflective material.

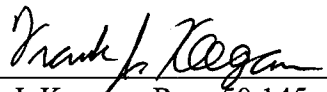
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10-16, and 18-20, are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Mrs. Kathleen Asher, Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 781-418-9219.

Respectfully submitted,NL

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April 23, 2008

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